



P E N N S Y L V A N I A GAME COMMISSION

**YOUR STATE
WILDLIFE AGENCY**

Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.



ATTENTION PENNSYLVANIA DEER HUNTERS

**A NEW PROCESS FOR PURCHASING
ANTLERLESS DEER LICENSES TO
BE VOTED ON THIS SPRING.**

A new state law, Act 148 of 2022, allows the Pennsylvania Game Commission to modernize and simplify how antlerless deer licenses are sold. The new antlerless license purchasing process proposes that hunters will be able to purchase them, for the 2023-24 license year, online at www.huntfishpa.gov, or at any in-store hunting license issuing agent.

General hunting licenses are preliminarily scheduled to go on sale on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 8 a.m. It is proposed that resident hunters would be able to purchase one antlerless license at that time. The new process proposes to include four rounds of sales. Antlerless deer allocations will be determined at the Game Commission's Board of Commissioners meeting, being held April 14-15, 2023.

Please ensure your contact information is correct in your online profile, at www.huntfish.pa.gov, so the agency can be in direct contact with information related to the new process, once approved by the board this spring.



STRUTTING INTO SPRING

Turkey hunting is a BIG deal here in Penn's Woods. In fact, Pennsylvania tops the country in the number of turkey hunters, both spring (more than 170,000) and fall (more than 90,000)!

Pennsylvania's only springtime big game season, Spring Gobbler Season, runs statewide April 29-May 30, 2023. The Youth Hunt is on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

Only bearded birds may be harvested during the spring season, and hunting is permitted by calling only. There is no requirement for hunters to wear fluorescent orange during the spring turkey season; however, it is recommended that orange be worn while moving.

Visit www.pgc.pa.gov or reference the 2022-23 Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest for turkey hunting rules and regulations. Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely.

THINK SAFETY. HUNT SAFELY.

Keep these important safety tips in mind to help you stay safe while hunting:

- Positively ID your target. Be sure the turkey, and its beard, are plainly visible before pulling the trigger.
- No stalking. Any movement, (or sounds), you think are a turkey, could be another hunter.
- Protect your back. Select a large tree, rock or other natural barrier to place at your back while calling.
- Alert approaching hunters by shouting "STOP." Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert others of your position.
- Make sure you are seen. Wear or display fluorescent orange, especially when moving.
- Don't wear red, white or blue.
These are the colors found on mature gobblers.

Visit www.pgc.pa.gov for more information. Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely. Thank you for being a Pennsylvania hunter. Thank you to Lisa Kay for submitting the group turkey hunting photo.



APPLY NOW



EXPANDED APPLICATION PERIOD FOR 2023-24

PENNSYLVANIA ELK HUNTING LICENSE

FEB. 1ST - JULY 16TH 2023

APPLY ONLINE AT HUNTFISH.PA.GOV OR AT ANY LICENSE ISSUING AGENT.



WWW.PGC.PA.GOV

APPLY NOW FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S 2023-24 ELK HUNTING SEASONS



Three seasons (archery, general, and late) have been preliminarily approved by the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners.

Apply for just \$11.97 per season. Or \$35.91 to apply for all three. Applications can be purchased online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

huntfish.pa.gov or at any in-store hunting license vendor. View hunt zone descriptions at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Seasons and bag limits will be approved at the board meeting on April 15, 2023. *Changes can be made to application preferences (hunt zones and sex) until the application period closes on Sunday, July 16, 2023.

Important changes have been made to the application timeframe in response to the adjustment of the drawing date, which will take place on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at the Keystone Elk Country Alliance's Elk Expo, in Benezette, PA. The drawing date was moved up to allow archery elk hunters more time to prepare.

GOOD LUCK. Thank you for being a Pennsylvania hunter and supporting wildlife conservation in the Keystone State.

PRELIMINARY 2023-24 HUNTING & TRAPPING SEASONS APPROVED

The Pennsylvania Game Commission Board of Commissioners met Saturday, Jan. 28, at the agency's headquarters in Harrisburg. The board gave preliminary approval to the 2023-24 hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits, which can be viewed online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

The public may offer comments on all proposed 2023-24 seasons and bag limits, as well as other board actions, between now and the board's meeting on April 14-15, when 2023-24 seasons and bag limits will be finalized, and antlerless deer license allocations will be determined.

Email us at pgccomments@pa.gov for your comments to be shared with the board. Call us with questions at 1-833-PGC-WILD. Visit us online at www.pgc.pa.gov to learn more.



GET IN THE GAME. REGISTER FOR HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION TODAY.



Now's your chance to get in the game. Spring and summer are great times to prepare for your first hunting experience.

In-person Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) classes are available in various locations across the state. Visit www.pgc.pa.gov to find a class near you.

All first-time hunters and trappers, regardless of age, must successfully complete an HTE course before they can purchase a Pennsylvania hunting or trapping license.

Individuals may take HTE at an in-person class or online. In-person classes are FREE and available to anyone 11 years and older. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

Learn more about in-person, online classes and becoming an instructor here online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

REPORT YOUR HARVEST THIS SPRING

Make your harvest count! Successful turkey hunters must immediately tag the bird before moving it from the harvest site and are required by law to report it to the Game Commission. There are three ways to report: Online at pgc.pa.gov, by calling 1-800-838-4431 or by mailing in a harvest card.

By reporting, hunters help to benefit wildlife management in the Commonwealth. The data collected helps with wildlife management decision-making processes for years to come.



NEW GAME WARDENS COMPLETE TRAINING

The Pennsylvania Game Commission proudly announced the addition of 18 new state game wardens to its force on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023.

After 44 weeks of intense training, these game wardens are ready to protect and serve the state's wildlife. During their training, they were taught a wide range of skills, including game law enforcement principles and methods, public relations, wildlife forensics, conducting wildlife surveys, hunter education instruction, and more!

With the addition of these new officers, the Game Commission is better to serve the public to fulfill the agency's mission to manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.



LEARN MORE ABOUT AMERICAN MARTENS

As the Pennsylvania Game Commission continues to explore the possibility of American marten reintroduction within Penn's Woods, the agency is providing opportunities for the public to learn more.

The agency is hosting several presentations across the state, beginning Thursday, March 9, and continuing through June. The dates are available online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

The American marten, a member of the weasel family, is an agile climber and was a long-time native resident to Pennsylvania prior to extirpation soon after the turn of the 20th century.

Still have questions on the American marten or the potential for restoration in Pennsylvania? Email us at PAmarten@pa.gov for answers and information.



REPORT "TAME" GROUSE SIGHTINGS



The Pennsylvania Game Commission is asking the public to report "tame" grouse sightings.

Pennsylvania grouse are wild, undomesticated birds. However, some grouse show little fear of or even act aggressively toward people, especially in spring and fall. These grouse are often referred to as "tame" grouse. Learn more on this behavior on the agency's YouTube page.

The Game Commission is conducting a ruffed grouse genetics study with Pennsylvania State University. The research aims to better understand grouse genetic variation across the state, including whether "tame" behavior is linked to genetics.

Report "tame" grouse sightings to grousecomments@pa.gov. Be sure to include your name and phone number, date of the sighting, location of the encounter and a description of the grouse's behavior. If possible, include GPS coordinates and other important location details that can direct someone to the area.

More information about this survey, how to report your sightings, and Pennsylvania's state bird, the ruffed grouse, is available at www.pgc.pa.gov.

CONTACTING THE
GAME COMMISSION
JUST GOT EASIER

1-833-PGC-HUNT
(1-833-742-4868)

1-833-PGC-WILD
(1-833-742-9453)

BOTH NUMBERS CONNECT CALLERS
IN PENNSYLVANIA WITH THE
CENTRALIZED DISPATCH CENTER.

HUNTERS REPORTING BIG-GAME
HARVESTS BY PHONE SHOULD CALL
1-800-838-4431.

WWW.PGC.PA.GOV



Callers anywhere in the state can now dial 1-833-PGC-HUNT or 1-833-PGC-WILD to contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Centralized Dispatch Center and be directed appropriately. We look forward to hearing from you!



HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife crimes affect everyone. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Operation Game Thief program serves to protect wild birds and wild mammals and encourages those who have information related to wildlife crimes to report details as soon as possible.

Report information to the Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – at 1-888-PGC-8001 or fill out an online form at <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>. Callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program online at <http://bit.ly/PG-COGT>.



LISTEN TO CALL OF THE OUTDOORS

Call of the Outdoors is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast and new episodes featuring guests from within the agency, as well as hunters, public figures and more, are published each month. Call of the Outdoors episodes are available on www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com, Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher. Enjoy and thanks for listening!



SUBSCRIBE FOR EMAIL UPDATES

Want to receive automatic updates related to Pennsylvania wildlife, hunting, trapping and habitat projects? Subscribe today to receive regular email updates directly in your inbox. Simply visit www.pgc.pa.gov and look for the "Sign up for emails" button at the top of our homepage to get on the list.

FOLLOW US ONLINE



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Phone: 717-787-4250

REGION OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION - 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties

SOUTHWEST REGION - 4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties

NORTHCENTRAL REGION - 1566 South Route 44 Highway, Post Office Box 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION - 8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652

Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties

NORTHEAST REGION - 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612-0220

Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties

SOUTHEAST REGION - 253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605

Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.PGC.PA.GOV